

From: Kromholz Seth-p53201
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/25/02 7:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir Or Madam:

I am a software engineer who writes code for a living. In addition, I have been following the computer industry intently for twenty years.

Last night I was flipping through an old catalog of software titles for early "mid-eighties" computer systems. Each product in the catalog was sold by a software maker that no longer exists today. Many of these companies were acquired by Microsoft. Others were put out of business by Microsoft.

The software industry today is a repressive environment, mostly due to the lack of ability to compete in so many markets. Every time a new product or innovation is introduced, a department at Microsoft is formed to counteract the threat by introducing a similar product, usually given away for free. There has been no real market force to stop them from using their natural monopoly in software operating systems to dominate nearly every other field of computing. It's as if the maker of the foundation of your house got to dictate everything that gets built on top, from your walls to your window draperies.

I would very much like to see Justice done in this case. The attempt that Microsoft and Bill Gates made to settle the antitrust suit was reprehensible (donating software to schools which cost them next-to-nothing to make but which would entrench them even more heavily in that market at the expense of would-be competitors). Please make sure that this sort of insulting arrogance does not go unpunished.

Sincerely,
-Seth D. Kromholz

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